

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the Claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Amended) In an imaging system including a system housing and a cartridge opening formed in the system housing, a printing consumable loading assembly comprising:
a cartridge holding assembly including a guide assembly, the guide assembly including a series of cooperating spring-loaded levers and motor-driven cams for guiding the consumable-containing cartridge to a loaded position when the consumable-containing cartridge is inserted thereby moving the cartridge holding assembly, the cartridge holding assembly connected to the imaging system within the housing;

the consumable-containing cartridge insertable into the guide assembly, the guide assembly adapted to receive the consumable-containing cartridge as it is inserted through the cartridge opening of the imaging system housing, the guide assembly adapted to guide the consumable-containing cartridge to ~~into~~ an in-use position within the cartridge holding assembly.

2. (Original) A printing consumable loading assembly according to claim 1, further comprising a control actuator connected to the imaging system and to the guide assembly.

3. (Original) A printing consumable loading assembly according to claim 2, wherein the control actuator comprises an ejection mechanism connected to the imaging system and to the guide assembly, the ejection mechanism being adapted and constructed to selectively eject a consumable-containing cartridge from the holding assembly.

4. (Original) A printing consumable loading assembly according to claim 3, further comprising the following:

a sensor adapted and constructed to sense the quantity of consumable within the consumable-containing cartridge; and

a display located on the system housing, the display being connected to the sensor to display sensor readings.

5. (Original) A printing consumable loading assembly according to claim 3, wherein the control actuator comprises the following:

a sensor adapted and constructed to sense the quantity of consumable within the consumable-containing cartridge; and

an electronic latch connected to the sensor and to the ejection mechanism, the electronic latch being adapted and constructed to automatically actuate the ejection mechanism to eject the consumable-containing cartridge when the sensor indicates that the quantity of consumable within the consumable-containing cartridge is at a predetermined level.

6. (Previously Presented) A printing consumable loading assembly according to claim 1 further comprising a plurality of consumable-containing cartridges insertable into the cartridge holding assembly of the guide assembly, the guide assembly adapted to receive the plurality of consumable-containing cartridges when inserted through the cartridge opening of the imaging system housing, the guide assembly adapted to guide the plurality of consumable-containing cartridges into an in-use position within the cartridge holding assembly.

7. Cancelled.

8. (Previously Presented) A printing consumable loading assembly according to claim 1, wherein the cartridge holding assembly further comprises a registration key mechanism on the openings in the system housing and the consumable-containing cartridges, the respective consumable-containing cartridges being configured to fit only into corresponding openings in the system housing.

9. (Original) A printing consumable loading assembly according to claim 8, wherein the registration key mechanism comprises the following:

a respective fin on each of the consumable-containing cartridges, the shape and position of the fin indicating a particular aspect of the consumable within the cartridge; and

a respective slot in each of the openings, the slots corresponding in shape and position to the fins on the respective consumable-containing cartridges.

10. Cancelled.

11. (Original) A printing consumable loading assembly according to claim 1, wherein the cartridge holding assembly includes a carousel adapted and constructed to hold a plurality of consumable-containing cartridges, and the guide assembly is mounted within the system housing in a position aligned for loading cartridges into the carousel, the carousel being configured to rotate to a first position to receive cartridges loaded via the opening and the guide assembly, and a second position for image forming.

12. (Previously Presented) A printing consumable loading assembly according to claim 1, further comprising a hinged door over the cartridge opening in the system housing.

13. (Previously Presented) An imaging system comprising:
an imaging system housing;
the imaging system housing including at least one cartridge opening;
a printing consumable loading assembly including, a cartridge holding assembly, the cartridge holding assembly including a guide assembly, the guide assembly including a series of spring-loaded levers and cooperating motor-driven cams to guide at least one consumable-containing cartridge into an in-use position, the cartridge holding assembly connected to the imaging system within the housing; and

the at least one consumable-containing cartridge insertable into the cartridge holding assembly of the guide assembly, the guide assembly adapted to receive the at least one consumable-containing cartridge as it is inserted through the at least one cartridge opening of the imaging system housing, the guide assembly adapted to transport the consumables cartridge into an in-use position within the cartridge holding assembly.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A printing consumable loading assembly~~ An imaging system according to claim 13, further comprising a control actuator connected to the imaging system and to the guide assembly, the control actuator including an ejection mechanism connected to the imaging system and to the guide assembly, the ejection mechanism being

adapted and constructed to selectively eject a consumable-containing cartridge from the holding assembly.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A printing consumable loading assembly~~ An imaging system according to claim 14, further comprising the following:

a sensor adapted and constructed to sense the quantity of consumable within the consumable-containing cartridge; and

a display located on the system housing, the display being connected to the sensor to display sensor readings.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A printing consumable loading assembly~~ An imaging system according to claim 13, wherein the at least one consumable-containing cartridge comprises a plurality of consumable-containing cartridges.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A printing consumable loading assembly~~ An imaging system according to claim 16, wherein the at least one opening in the system housing comprises a plurality of openings in the system housing.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A printing consumable loading assembly~~ An imaging system according to claim 17, further comprising a registration key mechanism on the openings in the system housing and the consumable-containing cartridges, the respective consumable-containing cartridges being configured to fit only into corresponding openings in the system housing.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A printing consumable loading assembly~~ An imaging system according to claim 13, wherein the holding assembly includes a carousel adapted and constructed to hold a plurality of consumable-containing cartridges, and the guide assembly is mounted within the system housing in a position aligned for loading cartridges into the carousel, the carousel being adapted and constructed to rotate to a first position to receive cartridges loaded via the opening and the guide assembly, and a second position for image forming.

20. (Previously Presented) A method of loading a consumable-containing cartridge in an imaging system including an imaging system housing including a cartridge opening formed in the system housing and cartridge holding assembly including a guide assembly, the guide assembly including a series of cooperating spring-loaded levers and motor-driven cams for guiding the consumable-containing cartridge to a loaded position when the consumable-containing cartridge is inserted thereby moving the cartridge holding assembly, the guide assembly aligned with the cartridge opening of the imaging system housing, the method comprising the following steps:

inserting the consumable-containing cartridge into the cartridge holding assembly through the cartridge opening formed in the system housing; and

receiving the consumable-containing cartridge in the cartridge holding assembly as it is inserted through the cartridge opening of the imaging system housing; and

guiding the consumable-containing cartridge into an in-use position with the cartridge holding assembly.